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11 Jun 99

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Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner  
US FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Ban Human Antibiotics in Animal Feed

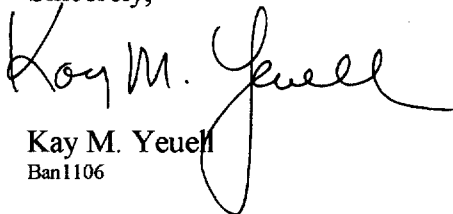
Dear Commissioner Henney:

Overuse of antibiotics in agriculture has led to serious antibiotic-resistance problems in foods. About 80 percent of the antibiotics used in agriculture are added to poultry, hog, and cattle feed, not to treat sick animals, but to promote growth and prevent disease. The disease is often the result of unsanitary factory farm conditions. This indiscriminate and non-essential use of antibiotics in agriculture dangerously increases the possibility that these antibiotics, and other closely related ones, will be ineffective when needed to treat people. There are already cases of antibiotic resistant strains of Salmonella being found in undercooked meats.

The current overuse of antibiotics both in human medicine and animal feeds must be quickly curtailed before it reaches the point where there are not effective ways to treat these antibiotic resistant microbes. There are already cases where people have been attacked by bacteria that are resistant to all antibiotics, including the newest fluoroquinolones. The FDA should revoke its approvals for existing uses of antibiotics in animal feed. FDA policy should be made consistent with recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

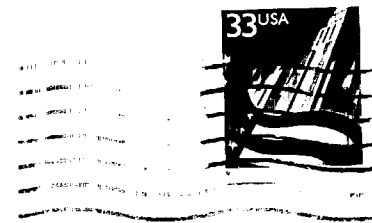
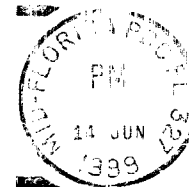
  
Kay M. Yeuell  
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